

IN THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having instructions to cause a machine to perform a method of managing a switchable bilateral electronic negotiation, the method comprising:

facilitating a first active negotiation between a first party and a second party, wherein facilitating the first active negotiation includes exchanging multi-attribute offers between the first party and the second party;

facilitating a first inactive negotiation between the first party and a third party, wherein facilitating the first inactive negotiation includes receiving a submitted multi-attribute offer from the third party;

automatically dropping the first active negotiation between the first party and the second party based on one or more rules relevant to the multi-attribute offers;

facilitating a second active negotiation between the first party and the third party;

facilitating a second inactive negotiation between the first party and the second party;

receiving an indication of an acceptable negotiation associated with the second active negotiation, the indication of an acceptable negotiation indicating that the third party has one last chance to submit a final multi-attribute offer; and

sending a message to the third party requesting the final multi-attribute offer.

33. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein facilitating the first active negotiation includes updating a first negotiation object.

34. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein facilitating the first inactive negotiation includes updating a second negotiation object.

35. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein facilitating the second active negotiation includes receiving a multi-attribute offer from the third party.

36. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the submitted multi-attribute offer is greater than a most recent submitted multi-attribute offer from the second party associated with the first active negotiation.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32 further comprising:

receiving a retraction of an offer associated with the acceptable negotiation associated with the second active negotiation and retracting the offer associated with the second active negotiation.

39-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the one or more rules indicate to automatically drop the first active negotiation if the multi-attribute offer received from the second party is less than a predetermined amount.

45. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the one or more rules indicate to automatically drop the first active negotiation if the multi-attribute offer is not received from the second party within a predetermined amount of time.

46. (New) A method of managing a switchable bilateral electronic negotiation, the method comprising:

facilitating a first active negotiation between a first party and a second party, wherein facilitating the first active negotiation includes exchanging multi-attribute offers between the first party and the second party;

facilitating a first inactive negotiation between the first party and a third party, wherein facilitating the first inactive negotiation includes receiving a submitted multi-attribute offer from the third party;

automatically dropping the first active negotiation between the first party and the second party based on one or more rules relevant to the multi-attribute offers;

facilitating a second active negotiation between the first party and the third party;

facilitating a second inactive negotiation between the first party and the second party;

receiving an indication of an acceptable negotiation associated with the second active negotiation, the indication of an acceptable negotiation indicating that the third party has one last chance to submit a final multi-attribute offer; and

sending a message to the third party requesting the final multi-attribute offer.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein facilitating the first active negotiation includes updating a first negotiation object.

48. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein facilitating the first inactive negotiation includes updating a second negotiation object.

49. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein facilitating the second active negotiation includes receiving a multi-attribute offer from the third party.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the submitted multi-attribute offer is greater than a most recent submitted multi-attribute offer from the second party associated with the first active negotiation.

51. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising:

receiving a retraction of an offer associated with the acceptable negotiation associated with the second active negotiation and retracting the offer associated with the second active negotiation.

52. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the one or more rules indicate to automatically drop the first active negotiation if the multi-attribute offer received from the second party is less than a predetermined amount.

53. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the one or more rules indicate to automatically drop the first active negotiation if the multi-attribute offer is not received from the second party within a predetermined amount of time.